# Recensement Census

NATIONAL CENSUS TEST

Report No. 13b

Family Characteristics

RECENSEMENT

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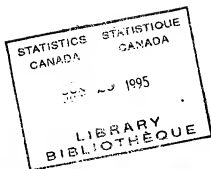
CENSUS

# NATIONAL CENSUS TEST

## Report No. 13b

### Family Characteristics

The Family Unit
Housing, Family and Social Statistics

August, 1994

**Response Rates:**

- The relationship to Person 1 question traditionally has a high response rate, the NCT is no exception (98.02% before follow-up and 99% after follow-up). Analysis of responses to all the relationship categories has not revealed any particular problem with this question. The pattern of responses compared well with previous Censuses or Census Test (See Table 3).

- The true effect of the "Rule of 6" for follow-up on the Relationship to Person 1 response rate is not totally clear as other follow-ups had taken place during Field Collection.

- The removal of the "X" from the Person 1 circle would affect the calculation of response rates prior to processing. It would not affect Person 1 data as the omission of checking the circle beside Person 1 will be corrected automatically by the Census processing system.

**Unmarried partner of Person 1:**

- Analysis of self-coded responses indicated that the use of "unmarried partner of Person 1" does not appear to have caused confusion in the reporting of the majority of common-law partnerships involving Person 1. Of the 896 Person 1/unmarried partner couples reported (unweighted), 90% were conflict-free with respect to other pertinent characteristics, i.e., opposite sex of Person 1 and common-law status equals "yes" for both.

- On the other hand, it is noted that a small proportion (n=54) of opposite-sex Person 1/unmarried partner couples had responded "no" to common-law status. Is this indicative of the degree to which either the term "unmarried partner" alone or in combination with "common-law" as used in Question 6, is confusing to some respondents? With this change, what impact it would have for common-law relationships not involving Person 1 also needs to be investigated.

- Furthermore, analysis of write-in responses using the term "common-law partner" is a cause for concern. Specifically, 22 out of 44 of these write-ins were in position 2, implying some respondents could not relate "unmarried partner" in conjunction with the response "yes" to common-law status as equivalent to reporting as "common-law partner of Person 1" when sex is opposite to Person 1.

- Analysis of the use of "unmarried partner" as a means of reporting same-sex unions identified a couple of problems. First, the overall incidence of reporting of same-sex partners was very low. Of the 896 total responses including "unmarried partner of Person 1", only 5 were valid cases. Second, there is a total reliance on "sex" to derive estimates of same-sex partners. Obviously the quality of these estimates will suffer when sex is misreported. If the misreporting of sex were to be ignored, the result would be an over-estimation of not only same-sex couples but also lone-parent families and non-family persons at the expense of opposite-sex couples.

- Misreporting of sex was first detected in the 1991 Census and again in the NCT through manual review. In 1996, with the use of autocoding, most of these cases will not be detected. Unless the problem of misreporting of sex can be overcome, it is definitely not advisable to rely on "sex" to derive same-sex partners.

## Blended Families:

(Blended families refer to husband-wife families with at least one step-child. In other words, one or both of the parents has a child from a previous union.)

- Four new self-coded categories for Relationship to Person 1 were tested for the feasibility of identifying blended families in the Census (See Chart 1). Test results showed that generally children in legitimate blended families appeared to have been reported correctly. However, the introduction of these categories seems to have adversely affected the response patterns of husband-wife families with biological children and of lone-parent families.

- Respondent error was most pronounced for families where it appeared that the children were actually the children of both parents and they were misreported as the children of Person 1 only. Misreporting of this nature would cause an inflation of blended families at the expense of husband-wife families with "own" children. In addition, there are other reporting errors which could not be determined in the normal processing environment without manual review. Therefore, an unknown number of error cases would remain undetected.

- Reporting error for children in lone-parent families would also increase because of the introduction of these new self-coded categories. The most common error observed in the examination of questionnaires was the correct reporting of the first child as the "son or daughter of Person 1", but the misreporting of the additional children as "son or daughter of Person 1 and Person 2". These 2 categories had the same self-

coded number of "04". The correction of such detectable
anomalies could result in increased processing costs.

## Foster or Guardianship Child:

- "Foster or guardianship child" as a separate self-coded
  relationship category appears to have been well understood by
  respondents. This category would facilitate the reporting of
  such children and improve the measurement of such households
  in the Census. However, the low incidence of this category
  relative to other categories (such as in-laws) which might
  have to be dropped in order to add this category has to be
  considered. Furthermore, in the absence of "foster or
  guardianship child" as a separate category, counts will still
  be available from autocoding of write-ins in 1996.

## Write-in Responses:

- The analysis of write-in responses in this test showed that an
  estimated increase of 50 to 100% write-ins may be encountered
  in 1996 if the three self-coded categories were removed from
  the 1991 Relationship to Person 1 question. These categories
  were:    (1)    son-in-law/daughter-in-law,    (2)    father-in-
  law/mother-in-law, and (3) brother-in-law/sister-in-law of
  Person 1. The estimated total write-ins for 1991 was between
  200,000 to 300,000 cases. In 1996, this figure could be
  doubled and they will be handled by autocoding.

- Based on this test, it is estimated that between 60 to 80% of
  the write-ins could be batch-coded, 23% could be coded without
  difficulty through manual intervention, and close to 6% would
  be considered "uncodeable", i.e., unable to match to an entry
  in the relationship-to-Person 1 ACTR codebook.

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## 1.0  INTRODUCTION

This report provides an evaluation of the elements introduced in the 1993 National Census Test (NCT) to the Relationship to Person 1 question. These elements are:

- Unmarried Partners
  -as a means of reporting common-law unions
  -as a means of reporting same-sex unions
- Blended Families
- Foster Child(ren)

Given the lack of comparative data sources for most of the above new elements (except common-law unions), emphasis of the analysis will focus on:

(1) Whether the respondents understood the new categories in the Relationship to Person 1 question to the extent that desired data are collected;

(2) Has the measurement of family relationships improved by the introduction of these new elements;

As automated coding will be implemented for 1996 for this question, analysis of the write-in responses will focus on whether the change in the relationship categories has increased coding operations and the implication of updating the reference file to reflect this change.

The response rates from both the Edit Failure Study and the final data file will be analyzed to see if the introduction of the "Rule of 6" in the 1993 NCT has an impact on the final response rates. As well, the impact of the removal of pre-printed Person 1 circle will be examined.

In the analysis, methods employed include review of reporting patterns and frequencies, review of respondents' comments, case-by-case review of actual questionnaires, examination of other variables that are related to the Relationship to Person 1 question and review of relevant debriefing and focus group reports.

## 2.0 RESPONSE RATES

Two changes were introduced in the 1993 NCT which may affect the
response rates of Relationship to Person 1 question. First, the
follow-up method was changed from mandatory to the "Rule of 6".
Second, the pre-"X" circle for Person 1 had been removed for the
first time and respondents were required to check the empty circle
for Person 1 (the only response choice available for this reporting
position).

In light of these two changes, the analysis of the response rates
will focus mainly on: (1) a comparison of non-response rates before
and after follow-up; and (2) a comparison of the responses to the
Relationship to Person 1 categories with those from the previous
Censuses and Census test.

### 2.1 Non-response rates before and after follow-up

Prior to follow-up, the distribution of non-response as calculated
from the Edit Failure Study file was 51.6% for Person 1 reporting
position, 2.7% for reporting position of Person 2 onwards, 21.5%
for unadjusted overall Q2 and 1.7% for adjusted[1] overall Q2 (See
Table 1). The high non-response rate for Person 1 reporting
position was caused cosmetically by respondents not checking the
circle beside Person 1. The adjusted overall Q2 figure does not
count as non-responses the 1,997 cases in which the pre-"X" circle
for Person 1 is blank.

**Table 1**
**Relationship to Person 1 Response Rates - Pre Follow-up**
**(from the Edit Failure Study Sample File, N=10,990)**

| Question No. | Question Item | Non-response/ Response in scope | Non-response % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q2 | Person 1 reporting position | 1,997/3,870 | 51.6 |
| Q2 | Person 2 onwards reporting position | 170/6,220 | 2.7 |
| Q2 | Unadjusted overall | 2,167/10,990 | 21.5 |
| Q2 | Adjusted overall | 170/10,990 | 1.7[2] |

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[1] "Adjusted" here refers to the deterministic assignment of
Person 1 to non-response in the first reporting position, the only
choice available for that position.

[2] The adjusted overall Q2 non-response rate before follow-up
was 1.7% in comparison to 2.3% for the variable of sex, 4.6% for
marital status, and 10.1% for Q6 - living common-law.

In 1991, a pre-"X" circle for Person 1 was provided and there was no need for the respondent to check this circle. With the removal of the pre-"X" circle for Person 1, the pre follow-up response rate for this category was affected. In terms of Person 1 data, the impact of this removal was minimal. This omission would be corrected automatically by the Census processing system and the relationship to Person 1 would be assigned to this reporting position in the household. It should be noted that response rate has generally never been a problem with Q2. Quality of response has been affected by question wording which has changed over time.

The post follow-up response rates were calculated from the unweighted responses to Q2 in the Final NCT file (See Table 2).

### Table 2
### Relationship to Person 1 Response Rates - Post Follow-up
### (from the unweighted final NCT file, N=40,662)

| Question No. | Question Item | Non-response/ Response in scope | Non-response % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q2 | Person 1 reporting position | 3,619/15,101 | 24.0 |
| Q2 | Person 2 onwards reporting position | 407/25,561 | 1.6 |
| Q2 | Unadjusted overall | 4,026/40,662 | 9.9 |
| Q2 | Adjusted overall | 407/40,662 | 1.0[3] |

Not counting all cases where the respondents had neglected to mark the Person 1 circle as non-responses, it is estimated that the adjusted overall non-response rate has decreased from 1.7% to 1.0% because of follow-up. As extensive follow-ups had been used during the 1993 Field collection to improve questionnaire return rates, the gain of 0.7% could also be due to the work of the interviewers in this exercise in addition to the "Rule of 6" follow-up.

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[3] The Q2 adjusted overall non-response rate at the post follow-up stage was 1.0%. In comparison, the non-response rate for sex was 0.2%, for marital status, 1.4% and for Q6, living common-law, 3.5%.

## 2.2 Historical comparison of responses to Relationship to Person 1 question

Table 3 shows a distribution of responses to Relationship to Person 1 from the previous three Censuses as well as from the 1988 NCT. Adjustments and modifications were made to facilitate comparison. Also, geographic coverage of the Census test differed slightly from that of the actual Census. This comparison exercise is not for certifying the counts per se. Rather it helps to depict the trends of the relationship categories over time.

A general observation is that the overall pattern of responses for all the categories presented in the table is quite comparable for all Censuses and the 1988 Census test. No major discrepancy is noted in the response rates of any category.

## 2.3 Summary

From the above analysis, it would appear that the true effect of the "Rule of 6" for follow-up is not totally clear as other follow-ups had also taken place. However, the pattern of responses to all the relationship categories in this test compared well with previous Censuses and 1988 test.

On the other hand, the removal of the "X" from the Person 1 circle would affect the calculation of response rates prior to processing. It would be helpful and perhaps time and cost saving to **have a pre-"X" circle for Person 1** back on the questionnaire. It is helpful in terms of lessening "the confusion respondents experience at this point in the questionnaire" as stated in the report entitled "Qualitative Evaluation of the Design and Layout of the 1996 Census Questionnaire" (page 31). It is perhaps worthwhile in terms of not having to go through the automatic correction process. Nonetheless, this latter benefit has to be weighed against the costs of capturing this code and subsequently adjusting this person indicator for "missed/refused" households during Head Office Processing as experienced in 1991.

Table 3 - Responses to Relationship to Person 1 Question, 1981,
1986, 1988 NCT, 1991 and 1993 NCT

| | 1981 | 1986 | 1988 NCT Final adjusted | 1991[4] | 1993 NCT Final, adjusted, unweighted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Person 1 | 34.43 | 35.91 | 37.58 | 36.50 | 37.14 |
| Husband/wife | 21.54 | 21.18 | 21.65 | 20.21 | 20.50 |
| Common-law partner | 1.58 | 2.09 | 2.41 | 2.60 | (2.06-2.28)[5] |
| Son/daughter | 35.83 | 33.95 | 32.41 | 31.74 | 33.67 |
| Son-in-law/daughter -in-law | 0.20 | 0.22 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 0.21[6] |
| Grandchild | 0.59 | 0.63 | 0.53 | 0.67 | 0.80 |
| Father/mother | 0.58 | 0.65 | 0.56 | 0.63 | 0.70 |
| Father-in-law/ mother-in-law | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.30 | 0.34 | 0.27 |
| Brother/sister | 0.80 | 0.78 | 0.70 | 0.74 | 0.72 |
| Brother-in-law/ sister-in-law | 0.29 | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.25 | 0.16 |
| Lodger | 1.20 | 1.09 | 0.68 | 1.05 | 0.67[7] |
| Room-mate | 0.95 | 1.13 | 1.34 | 1.38 | 1.02 |
| Nephew/niece | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.14 | 0.20 | 0.16 |
| Lodger's husband /wife | 0.02 | 0.02 | ---[8] | 0.01 | --- |
| Lodger's son/ daughter | 0.05 | 0.05 | --- | 0.02 | --- |
| Employee | 0.27 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 0.03 |
| Other relative | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.17 |
| Non-response | 0.85 | 1.04 | 0.59 | 1.98 | 1.00 |

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[4] Responses to Relationship to Person 1 question were taken from the pre-Edit and Imputation stage and adjusted to include private households only. Note that the 1991 Census and the 1993 National Census Test differed in that the latter excludes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Indian Reserves and the percentages were calculated with unweighted data.

[5] There were a total of 929 cases or 2.28% (33 write-ins and 896 self-codes) reported for unmarried partner or common-law partner of person 1. Of these, 839 or 2.06% reported a write-in indicating common-law partnership or checked the self-code of "unmarried partner", sex opposite to that of person 1 and common-law question=yes for both.

[6] There is no pre-coded box for each of the six underlined categories in the 1993 NCT. Percentages were derived from analysis of the write-ins. Of the 1.46% write-ins, 1% matched these six underlined categories.

[7] The 0.67% is composed of lodger (0.53%) and foster/guardianship child (0.14%). Prior to this test, foster/guardianship children were coded as lodgers.

[8] --- Not applicable.

## 3.0 UNMARRIED PARTNER

Prior to the 1993 NCT, several options for reporting partners of
the same sex were tested in focus groups, one-on-one and paired
interviews. The intent was to test the questions on individuals
representative of a range of social, political and religious
attitudes. The challenges of the screening and recruitment of
participants did not result in the desired range, but valuable
feedback and comments were received nonetheless.

In the 1993 NCT, a new response category, **"unmarried partner of
Person 1"** was introduced to enumerate two forms of living
arrangements:

- Common-law unions involving Person 1
- Same-sex unions involving Person 1

The following analysis will focus on (1) assessing the degree of
legitimacy associated with the reporting of this relationship
value, both in terms of enumerating common-law unions and same-sex
relationships involving Person 1; (2) assessing the potential for
direct-response loss, i.e., the degree to which respondents,
identifiable as living in either type of union, choose to report in
some other manner, e.g., through a written response or through
comments; (3) assessing the true value of the current category with
regard to its ability to accurately enumerate both types of living
arrangements; and (4) recommending to management with regard to how
the goal of "complete" enumeration of these two sub-populations can
be accomplished.

## 3.1 Analysis of "unmarried partner" responses

A total of 896 persons reported their relationship as the
"unmarried partner of Person 1" by marking the pre-printed circle
for this category. This represents 2.2% of the 40,662 respondent
population in the 1993 NCT. Table 4 shows a distribution of
unmarried partners (single and multiple responses) and their
associated demographic characteristics.

Overall, these unmarried partners of Person 1 appeared to be:

        predominantly female (65.3%)
        of single marital status (65.1%)
        majority living with a common-law partner (92.2%)
        younger than 35 years of age (58.8%) and
        living in two-person households (49.1%)
          (implying with no children at home)

As 92.2% of these unmarried partners reported living common-law, their characteristics stated above did reflect the characteristics of persons living common-law (See for example, the 1991 Census short article "For more and more Canadians, common-law unions make good sense").

**Table 4**
**Selected Demographic Characteristics of "Unmarried Partners",**
**Single and Multiple Responses, 1991**

|  |  | Single Response | Multiple Response | %age of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total |  | 891 | 5 | 100.0 |
| Sex: | Male | 307 | 1 | 34.4 |
|  | Female | 581 | 4 | 65.3 |
| Marital Status: |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never-married | 581 | 2 | 65.1 |
|  | Ever-married | 280 | 3 | 31.6 |
| Common-law Status: |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 825 | 1 | 92.2 |
|  | No | 61 | 4 | 7.3 |
| "Age" Groupings: |  |  |  |  |
|  | Under 15 years | – | 1 | 0.1 |
|  | 15-24 years | 181 | – | 20.2 |
|  | 25-34 years | 345 | 1 | 38.6 |
|  | 35-44 years | 223 | 1 | 25.0 |
|  | 45+ years | 137 | 2 | 15.5 |
| Household size: |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 persons | 438 | 2 | 49.1 |
|  | 3 persons | 209 | – | 23.3 |
|  | 4 persons | 159 | 2 | 18.0 |
|  | 5+ persons | 85 | 1 | 9.6 |

## 3.2 Unmarried partner as a means of reporting common-law unions

One critical aspect in the analysis of the "unmarried partner" responses is to determine how successful the resulting counts measure common-law unions involving Person 1.

In the 1991 Census questionnaire, a self-coded category, "common-law partner of Person 1" is uniquely located as the second "Relationship to Person 1" category for Person 2. This category is given a cell ID of "03" on the document. This code resulted in the capture of a total of 703,221 responses in 1991, representing 2.6% of all captured person records.

In the 1993 NCT, the reporting methodology and location of the response category remained unchanged but the terminology used was

different for enumerating common-law partners. Instead of the term "common-law partner", "unmarried partner" was used in 1993. The planning assumptions were that the respondents living in common-law unions would have no difficulty in recognizing "unmarried partner" as the response category they should choose.

It should also be noted that in both the 1991 and 1993 enumerations, instructions were given to respondents as to who should be listed as Person 2 once Person 1 was identified for the household. In 1991, either the wife, husband or common-law partner of Person 1 should be listed as Person 2 (See Step 5 of questionnaire). In 1993, either the spouse or unmarried partner of Person 1 should be listed as Person 2 (See Step 2 of questionnaire).

## 3.2.1 Analysis of self-coded responses

There were 896 "unmarried partner of Person 1" recorded as self-coded responses in the NCT, of which 891 were single and 5 were multiple responses.

For the purpose of this analysis, as a completely valid (irrefutable) common-law partner of Person 2 has to meet the following three criteria: (1) coded as unmarried partner of Person 1, (2) sex is opposite to Person 1, and (3) Person 1 as well as Person 2's responses to Q6 is "yes", i.e., living common-law.

Of the 896 responses of "unmarried partner of Person 1", 806 (90%) met the above three conditions and therefore can be considered as valid common-law partner of Person 1. (Note: This figure translates into a weighted estimate of 650,141 common-law partners.)

The remaining 90 cases of "unmarried partner of Person 1" were made up of a variety of situations such as reporting same sex as Person 1, reporting "no" to Q6, or non-response for one, or more of these characteristics. Some of these cases will be discussed in the following section: **unmarried partner as a means of reporting same-sex unions**.

## 3.2.2 Analysis of write-in responses

A review of the write-in responses from the RAW file (n=613 vs. 607 on the final analysis file) identified 44 indications of common-law partnership with Person 1. These are described below.

- 34 write-ins used some identifiable form of the term "common-law" such as "common-law", "common-law spouse", "common-law partner", "c/1". Twenty-two of these were located in position 2 (person 2) where "unmarried partner" was an option, and none of these were

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combined with a self-coded choice.


●    Only 4 responses used the term "unmarried partner" and
     all were located in position 3 (person 3) or greater

●    The remaining 6 responses were:
          -partenaire/conjoint(e) n=3
          -boyfriend/girlfriend n=2 (note: Q6=yes for both)
          -significant n=1

Note: The weighted estimate for written responses indicating a
common-law partnership with Person 1 is 25,184.


## 3.2.3 Summary

● It appears that the change in terminology from the
  previously used "Common-law partner" to "Unmarried partner"
  for the self-coded response category has not had a
  detrimental effect on the reporting of common-law unions
  involving Person 1;

● There is evidence however, that the two concepts are not
  synonymous to some respondents, namely:

     * those who chose to refer to themselves as common-law
       partners using the write-in space, although "Unmarried
       partner" is available as a self-coded choice, and

     * those who identified themselves as "Unmarried partner"
       but marked "No" to the question on whether they are
       living common-law.

● The majority (92.2%) of unmarried partners of Person 1
  reported living common-law. In 90% of the cases, all
  characteristics were in line with the characteristics of
  persons living common-law in 1991. One may assume that the
  change in terminology has not caused confusion to the target
  population of common-law partners.


## 3.3 Unmarried partner as a means of reporting same-sex unions

How to go about enumerating same-sex unions, including what
terminology should be used, was evaluated at the planning stage of
this test. In order to develop the NCT draft question, write-in
responses and respondent/enumerator comments from both the 1986 and
1991 Censuses, census questionnaires from other countries, surveys
and media coverage were examined. Four options were presented to
the 1996 Content Determination Task for consideration.

Focus group testing conducted in early 1993 by Price Waterhouse
Management Consultants resulted in the recommendation that separate
categories of "Common-law partner of Person 1" and "Same-sex
partner of Person 1" should be used in the collection of data on
same-sex living arrangements. Their recommendation was based on a
split preference from the "general public" sessions and
"overwhelming" support from the gay and lesbian sessions. **This
recommendation was accepted by Subject-matter and forwarded to the
Task.**

The decision to replace the Question 2 "Common-law partner of
Person 1" category which was used in both the 1986 and 1991
Censuses, with "Unmarried partner of Person 1" and drop the "Same-
sex ..." category entirely **was made by the Task.** It was prompted by
the use of the term in the 1990 U.S. Census.


### 3.3.1 Analysis of self-coded responses

Of the 896 total responses of "Unmarried Partner of Person 1" (891
single and 5 multiple responses), 21 cases were identified where
either:
- . Person 1 and the partner reported the same sex (n=17) or
- . Person 1, the partner, or both did not respond to the
  question on sex (n=4).

These questionnaires have been manually reviewed and the results
are summarized below:

| Total Cases | Total 20 (21 *) | Male 5 | Female 11 (12 *) | Other 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid Same-sex couples | 5 | 2 | 3 | - |
| Not Same-sex couples | 11 (12 *) | 3 | 8 | - |
| Misreported sex | 9 | 3 | 6 | - |
| . Respondent error | 3 | 1 | 2 | - |
| . Interviewer error | 4 | 1 | 3 | - |
| . Data capture error | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Misreported R2P1 | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| . Respondent error | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| . Interviewer error | - | - | - | - |
| . Data capture error | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Cases where Sex is NR | 4 | - | - | 4 |

(*In one household, characteristics were so badly reported that it was impossible to identify any one source of the problem. The respondent, the interviewer
and data capture all contributed to the result. This household is excluded from the body of the table.)


Of these 21 cases, one case was so badly reported that it was not
possible to identify the source of the problem, 5 cases were
considered valid same-sex partners of Person 1, and 11 cases were
either misreporting sex (9 cases) or relationship to Person 1 (2

15

cases).

## 3.3.2 Analysis of write-in responses

Only three write-in responses contained any indications of same-sex
living arrangements and:

- all were reported in position 2 (ie., where **"Unmarried
  Partner" was an option**), "same-sex spouse" was used twice,
  while in the third case, the reported relationship was
  "lovers".

- all reported a Q6 response of "No", i.e., not living
  common-law.

## 3.3.3 Summary

- The small number of valid cases where same-sex relationships
  were reported using the "Unmarried partner" response
  category (n=5) is a cause for concern. The fact that 3
  additional cases reported their relationship in position 2
  using the write-in option is further evidence that, if
  respondents wish to report their situation, "Unmarried
  partner" is clearly not their choice;

  *Note: Further investigations into the reporting of same-sex relationships,
  including the use of the "Room-mate" category as a reporting option, are
  planned.*

- Based on what we know regarding the misreporting of sex in
  1991, as well as evidence from this test indicating that the
  problem has not been solved by re-aligning the response
  categories of "male" and "female", it is felt that quality
  estimates of same-sex living arrangements cannot be
  generated from this question.

## 4.0 BLENDED FAMILIES

On the 1991 Census questionnaire, respondents could use the category "Son/daughter of Person 1" for never-married children of Person 1 or indicate the relationship in the write-in box. They were instructed (in the Step 5 area) to include adopted or stepchildren as their children. There was also an instruction in the Guide that "Stepchildren, adopted children and children of a common-law partner should be considered sons and daughters." Therefore, adopted children, stepchildren and children of one partner from a previous union were not differentiated in the 1991 Census.

Given the increasing number of divorces, remarriages and common-law unions, interest in the number of and data on blended families and stepchildren has increased. Media coverage and articles in academic journals illustrate this growing interest.Submissions to the 1996 Census consultation process expressed interest in such data. With a view to assessing the feasibility of counting blended families in the Census, foreign census and survey questionnaires as well as applicable Statistics Canada surveys were reviewed. Several question options were tested by Price Waterhouse Management Consultants in focus groups and in-depth one-on-one and paired interviews. Efforts to facilitate the reporting of blended families by respondents were viewed very favourably by participants. Various terms such as birth, natural, adopted and stepson/ stepdaughter were also tested. A number of participants objected to distinguishing between natural and adopted children. Overall, however, separate mark-in categories were considered the best alternative and there was a slightly stronger preference for the option which identified children in relation to both Persons 1 and 2 or only one of the two. Therefore four new self-code categories were added to the NCT relationship question, 1 in Position #2 and 3 in Position #3+.(See Chart 1.)

## 4.1 Analysis approach

As there was no family formation in the NCT, a count of blended or stepfamilies is not possible. It should be noted that the categories "Son or daughter of Person 1 (Position 2)" and "Son or daughter of Person 1 only (Position 3+)" could have been reported in either blended or lone-parent families.

Given the limited amount of information on the final file and the subjective nature of the Relationship to Person 1 question, manual review of the questionnaires was necessary to assess response patterns and validity of frequencies. After a preliminary review of questionnaires indicated that there appeared to be some reporting problems for blended families, a file was produced which provided identifiers for several types of self-code response combinations described below. A sample of each type was examined. As there also appeared to be some misreporting of children in lone-parent families (due to the addition and ordering of the new categories), a sample of cases was also examined. The findings for lone-parent families are discussed in Section 4.6.

Description of Types

Six types of cases which could be considered legitimate blended or step situations were specified by Subject Matter and a file with identifiers was created by Methodology. A sample of the cases was examined to determine their validity. For each of the six types Person 2 was a husband, wife or unmarried partner of Person 1. Cases containing self-codes (as on the final file) which should reflect the following reporting patterns for the children were specified as follows: (See Table 5 for details.)

1) All children of Person 1 only.

2) All children of Person 2 only.

3) At least one of both Person 1 and 2 and one of Person 1 only.

4) At least one of both Person 1 and 2 and one of Person 2 only.

5) At least one of Person 1 only and one of Person 2 only.

6) At least one of Person 1 only, one of Person 2 only and one of both Person 1 and 2.

The 32 cases of "Stepson or stepdaughter of Person 1" were also examined and the findings are discussed separately in Section 4.3. See Section 4.4 for the analysis of the write-ins.

Several characteristics were inspected in the review in order to assess the plausibility of responses. These included the household members' last names (ie. same or different), date of birth, marital and common-law status (of parents), mother tongue, year of immigration (if applicable) and ethnic origin. As a possible indicator of literacy or comprehension problems, the highest level of schooling for the parents was also reviewed. The steps at the beginning of the questionnaire and the comments at the back were also checked for evidence of difficulties or confusion. An effort was made to ascertain if the questionnaire was respondent or interviewer completed. Similarly, to the extent possible, an

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attempt was made to determine if an error was created by the respondent, the interviewer or the keyer.(Keying errors were confirmed in conjunction with Methodology by comparing manual review codes with final file codes.)It should be noted that due to time constraints, only a small sample of the cases could be studied to date. Therefore the data should be interpreted with caution, particularly for the first two types.

## 4.2 Analysis of self-codes

Of the 60 households (24.9% of the total 241 identified on the final file) examined where all the children were coded as the "Son or Daughter of Person 1 only " (Code 05, Position 3+), just under two thirds (65.0%) appeared to have been invalid and the balance (35.0%) valid. (See Tables 6 and 7.) That is to say, for 21 cases, examination of the questionnaire and the various indicators outlined above confirmed that the children did indeed appear to be the children of Person 1 only and were correctly reported. In 39 households, all the indications suggested that the children were actually children of both Person 1 and 2 and should have been reported as such. These households were not, therefore, actually blended family situations.

Of the valid cases, 85.7% were respondent completed. Nearly three quarters of the invalid cases were respondent completed. Respondents may have checked "Son or daughter of Person 1 only" because they moved down the list rather than across persons. Another possibility is that because the emphasis in the question and the instructions is the relationship of the household members to Person 1, some respondents may have retained that approach when they reported their children. This emphasis may also have been communicated by some interviewers both when questionnaires were completed by phone or in person with respondents. Eight of the invalid cases were interviewer completed.

Of the 16 cases sampled (10.1% of the total 158) where all the children were reported as "Son or daughter of Person 2 only", over 80% were correct. Of the 13 correct cases, over 80% were respondent completed. Of the 3 invalid cases, one appeared to be due to respondent error, one to interviewer error and one to a keying error.

Sixteen cases (20.8% of the total 77) where there was at least one child of both Person 1 and 2 and at least one of Person 1 only were reviewed. Just over 60% (62.5%) appeared correct. Of the 6 incorrect cases, one half (3) were due to interviewer error. In each of these three cases, the error was on the second questionnaire of a 2 questionnaire household. The invalid cases were all actually husband-wife families with children of both parents. Each of the 18 (20.2% of the total 89) households sampled where there was at least one child of both Person 1 and 2 and at least one of Person 2 only appeared correct. Over 87% were

respondent completed and there were no indications of reporting problems. For situations where there was at least one child of Person 1 only and one of Person 2 only, 6 of the 7 of the sampled households appeared to be valid.

As the number of total cases where there was at least one child of Person 1 only, at least one of Person 2 only and at least one of both Person 1 and 2 was very small (3), each one was inspected. All three were valid.

### 4.3 Réponses du type «Fils ou fille d'un conjoint précédent ou actuel de la Personne 1» - ou step-child (cellule 05 en position 2)

En plus des familles reconstituées, on a voulu également tester, en novembre dernier, les cas d'«enfants d'un autre lit» en position 2, c'est-à-dire les familles avec un adulte présent et un ou des enfants issus du couple du conjoint précédent. Des difficultés ayant été prévues avec la version française de cette catégorie de réponse, une analyse était nécessaire et les principaux résultats sont présentés ici et révèlent plus de problèmes que prévu.

Dans la base de données, on a identifié 32 de ces cas sur les quelque 40 000 personnes dans l'échantillon, ce qui représente moins de 0,1%. L'étude révèle que seulement trois cas semblent plausibles (0,01%). L'incidence de cette catégorie est donc très faible. Les 29 autres cas sont le résultat d'erreurs de saisie, de codage, de réponse ou de traitement de l'information. On peut regrouper les cas analysés comme suit:

- 13 cas d'erreur de traitement, où on retrouvait dans le questionnaire quelqu'un en position 1, suivi de quelqu'un en position 3, c'est-à-dire où l'espace pour la Personne 2 avait été laissée sans réponse. Dans tous ces cas, la réponse pour la Personne 3 était la cellule 05, soit «Fils ou fille de la Personne 1 uniquement». Il semble donc que la Personne 3 ait été repositionnée comme Personne 2 et que l'on ait gardé le code de la réponse inchangé: hors, pour la Personne 2, la cellule 05 correspond au lien «Fils ou fille d'un conjoint précédent ou actuel de la Personne 1». Lors du changement de position de la Personne 3 à la Personne 2, il aurait donc également fallu changer le code de réponse, qui aurait été la cellule 04, «Fils ou fille de la Personne 1».

- 10 cas d'erreur de saisie, c'est-à-dire où la réponse donnée était la cellule 04, par exemple, alors que la valeur dans la base de données était 05. Dans 6 de ces cas, la réponse aux Personnes 3 et suivantes était 05, alors que pour 2 autres, la date de naissance de la Personne 2 commençait par 05, situation que l'on a observée en d'autres occasions.

- 5 cas probables d'erreur de réponse où les répondants n'ont peut-être pas compris la catégorie. Il s'agit dans tous ces cas de réponses à la version française du questionnaire, version avec laquelle on avait prévu ce genre de problème. Puisqu'il n'existe pas de traduction claire et unique du terme «step-child» en français, il a fallu trouver une expression qui refléterait le plus fidèlement possible le sens anglais, tout en minimisant l'espace requis. Après de longues consultations, nous avons décidé d'adopter la version du questionnaire, sachant bien qu'elle pouvait créer une confusion. Il est en effet possible pour un répondant de cocher cette réponse dans le cas par exemple d'un ménage composé d'un parent veuf ou divorcé et d'un enfant issu du parent présent et du parent veuf ou décédé; ce choix de réponse indiquerait alors que le répondant aurait (incorrectement) interprété qu'il devait exprimer le lien entre l'enfant et le parent absent, plutôt qu'entre l'enfant et le parent présent. C'est ce qu'on semble avoir observé pour ces 5 cas, tous dans des questionnaires français tel que prévu, où le parent indiquait être divorcé ou veuf, et où les Personnes 1 et 2 portaient le même nom de famille.

- Un cas a été relevé où la réponse de la Personne 2 semblait plausible, mais où le parent biologique était inscrit en position 3. La Personne 2 aurait donc dû être inscrite en position 3.

- Les autres cas (3) semblent plausibles; rien ne permet de douter de leur validité.

De cette analyse, il ressort donc que la fréquence des réponses d'enfants d'un autre lit en position 2 est très faible et, de surcroît, les réponses obtenues risquent plus souvent de provenir d'erreurs que de situations réelles. Il est vrai qu'il ne s'agissait que d'un test et que les mesures de vérification utilisées lors du vrai Recensement auraient éliminé une bonne partie de ces fausses réponses, mais la qualité des données n'aurait probablement pas été probante.


## 4.4 Analysis of write-ins

"Step" or "adopted" write-ins were examined. Write-ins of "Son", "Daughter" and for example, "Son/daughter of Person 4" were also reviewed. The analysis of these write-ins follows.

There was a total of 17 'step-' and adopted write-ins. Upon examination of the questionnaires, each of the 3 adopted write-ins appeared valid. The use of the write-in area may have reflected the respondents' desire to clearly report the child as adopted. Similarly, examination of several characteristics on the questionnaires confirmed that the 14 'step-' write-ins were valid.

In every case the children appeared to have a step-relationship to Person 1 and the majority were the natural children of Person 2. There were 2 step-child, 3 stepson and 9 stepdaughter write-ins. For the 2 step-child write-ins and 1 of the stepdaughter cases, the respondent also checked the self-code "Son or daughter of Person 2 only". They may have wished to emphasize or clarify the step-relationship by also using the write-in area. With 1 exception, there did not appear to be respondent (or interviewer) comprehension problems.

There were 5 write-ins of "Son" (includes 1 of "Common law son"), 1 of "Daughter" and 5 of "Son/daughter of Person 'X', for a total of 11. The latter were, for example, "Son of Person 3" or "Daughter of Person 4". Each questionnaire was examined to assess if they appeared to be blended family situations and the reason for the use of the write-in box rather a self-code. One questionnaire, in which the common-law partner was reported in Position #4 and the child as "Son of Person 4", was a blended family. The balance were cases where a self-code could have been used and/or the relationship correctly coded in processing.

## 4.5 Summary

As discussed earlier, a sample of questionnaires with 6 different types of self-code combinations for the children were examined to establish their validity. Misreporting error was most pronounced for families where all the children were reported as the "Son or daughter of Person 1 only". Examination of several characteristics on the questionnaires provided strong indications that they were actually the child(ren) of both Person 1 and Person 2 (that is to say of both the husband and wife or both partners). This was the case for just over 50% of this type examined to date. One plausible explanation for the misreporting is that after checking "Husband or Wife of Person 1" or "Unmarried partner of Person 1", the respondent would continue to move down the relationship list and check the 'next' self-code box. Another is the emphasis in the question and instructions on the relationship to **Person 1**. Misreporting of this nature would cause an inflation of the count of blended families at the expense of husband-wife families with 'own' children.

Although there was a smaller proportion of 'invalid' cases for families where all the children were reported as the "Son or daughter of Person 2 only", the misreporting would also contribute to an inflated number of blended families.

Overall, it appears to date that the majority of legitimate blended families reported the children correctly. However, some apparent errors or suspect cases were also identified. Additional examination of questionnaires will provide stronger indications of response patterns.

Should the response patterns observed to date in the NCT occur in the Census, there would be a negative impact on data quality. Various types of reporting errors could not be determined in the normal processing environment without manual review. Therefore an unknown number of error cases would remain undetected. It is quite probable, however, that the count for blended families would be inflated and that for husband-wife families with 'own' children deflated.


## 4.6 Lone-parent families

The preliminary review of questionnaires also indicated that there appeared to be some errors in the response patterns for lone-parent families which could be due to the addition and ordering of the new 'blended' categories. Therefore, a sample of the following types of cases (as identified on the final file) was also examined: (See Table 8.)

1) Person 1 and Person 2 is "Son or daughter of Person 1".

2) Person 1, Person 2 is "Son or daughter of Person 1" and Person 3+ is "Son or daughter of Person 1 only".

3) Person 1, Person 2 is "Son or daughter of Person 1" and Person 3+ is "Son or daughter of Person 2 only".

4) Person 1 and self-codes 04, 05 and 06 were identified in the household.

5) Person 1, Person 2 is "Son or daughter of Person 1" and Person 3+ is "Son or daughter of both Person 1 and 2".

Due to time constraints and the reasonable expectation that they should be valid, only a very small sample of the first two types has been examined to date. (See Tables 9 and 10.) However of the 12 sampled (1.3% of the total 940) for the first type, 10 (or 83.3%) were valid lone-parent families where the child was properly reported. The 2 additional cases were due to the respondents' reporting patterns (the spouse was not reported in Position #2) and were actually husband-wife families. The latter anomaly, however, could be processed correctly during Census production. Of the 6 cases (1.0% of the total 594) of the second type examined, each one was valid.

The combination of self-codes (as appearing on the final file) for case types #3, #4 and #5 should be in error for legitimate lone-parent family situations. Therefore it was anticipated that these cases would contain some type of error. Examination of a sample of these cases confirmed this; with the one exception which was valid only due to the presence of a second questionnaire. Five (20% of the total 25) of the type #3 were reviewed. In every case, either

the respondent (4 cases or 80% of the sample) or the interviewer (1 case) had incorrectly coded Person 3, ie. the second child. All were lone-parent families. Similarly, 17 (94.4%) of the 18 case type #4 (20.2% of the total 89 cases) reviewed contained one or more errors. In the remaining case, Person 7 in Position #2 on the second questionnaire was correctly reported as "Son or daughter of Person 1, ie. Code 04 in Position "#2". The errors appeared to be created by respondents in 29.4% of the cases and by interviewers and keyers in the remainder (35.3% each). All of the respondent and interviewer error cases were valid lone-parent families where the second child+ was incorrectly reported. As both "Son and daughter of Person 1" in Position #2 and "Son and daughter of both Person 1 and 2" in Position #3 were the same self-code, (04), this may have caused some of the errors. The majority of the keying error cases were actually husband-wife families with children of both parents.

As the number of case type #5 was very small (3 in total), each one was examined. Although legitimate lone-parent families, each contained an error. In two cases the third child was reported as the child of Person 2 only (ie. Code "06") rather than of Person 1 only. In the third case, a grandchild of Person 1 was misreported as a child of Person 2 only.

As over 90% of case types #3,4 and 5 sampled to date contained some type of error, it is quite possible that further examination of additional questionnaires will yield similar results. These 3 case types comprised just over 7% of the total apparent lone-parent family households on the final file.

## 4.7 Summary

As discussed above, the addition of the new self-codes for blended and step relationships appears to have had some negative impact on the reporting of children in lone-parent families. The most common error observed in the examination of questionnaires was the correct reporting of the first child as the "Son or daughter of Person 1", but the misreporting of the additional (ie. second and third child, etc.) children as "Son or daughter of both Person 1 and Person 2". These 2 categories had the same self-code, which may have caused some of the errors. A second type of error was the misreporting of additional children as the "Son or daughter of Person 2 only". While there was only one case identified in the NCT of the third type of error, it too could occur in the Census. That is a situation where a grandchild of Person 1 (in Position #3+) is reported as the "Son or daughter of Person 2 only" rather than using the provided self-code for "Grandchild of Person 1".

The examination of questionnaires will continue. However, the correction of such detectable anomalies revealed to date could result in increased processing costs.

## 5.0  FOSTER or GUARDIANSHIP CHILD

In 1991, foster or guardianship children and wards were classified as lodgers (i.e., unrelated non-family persons). In the 1993 NCT, a specific category was added to facilitate the reporting of foster children for households that carry out such 'parenting' roles and functions. With this separate category, foster children could be distinguished from 'own' and step children.

Focus group testing prior to the NCT indicated that the term was well understood and no objections or reservations were expressed regarding either having it as a separate category or reporting such children.

### 5.1 Analysis of self-coded and write-in responses

Fifty-five self-code responses of "foster or guardianship child" were identified in 43 households from the unweighted final NCT data file. Upon examination of each questionnaire for these households, it was found that only 40 cases were legitimate. The remaining 15 cases were created due to data capture error (See Table 11).

The self-code for "foster or guardianship child" was "10". In each of the 15 invalid cases, there was a '10' in the birth date, most often in the 'Day' section. This error appears to be due, in part, to the fact that the NCT was data captured by Labour Force keyers. When the Labour Force questionnaire was captured in the past, the keyers moved down the page as they keyed. Key verification was minimal for the NCT. These 15 cases were actually other relationships, for example 'own' or step children.

The 40 foster children in the 30 legitimate households accounted, therefore, for 0.1% of the total responses.

Whether the questionnaire was respondent or interviewer completed did not appear to affect this category. The write-in box rather than the self-code was used, however, by interviewers in 2 households.This resulted in the 4 valid "foster child" write-ins. There were no indications why the write-in area was used. One interviewer said in the debriefings that she put a case of foster children in Step 3.(Step 3 asked **"Did you leave anyone out of Step 2 because you were not sure the person should be listed?"**.Step 2 said **"List below all persons who usually live here..."**.) As no other information is available and this questionnaire did not appear to be among the cases examined, it is not known if the children were included or not. Of the very few interviewer comments noted concerning foster children, each indicated that the interviewer treated the situation correctly. Indeed one interviewer moved 2 cases from Step 3 to Step 2 and another moved 1 case.There was also one household with 4 write-ins of "famille d'accueil". The persons were older,however, and therefore this could be not considered a valid foster situation.

There were no indications either from the steps, the question itself or the comments section at the back of the questionnaire that respondents encountered any difficulty with or objection to the category. (One respondent did comment (in Step 10A, "Did you find any of the **steps** on pages 2 and 3 difficult to answer?") that they had not specified their foster children in Step 5. Step 5 asked **"How many persons who have a usual home somewhere else in Canada are staying here temporarily as of November 8,1993?"**. They did report them in Step 2 and Question 2.) At least two-thirds of the valid questionnaires were respondent completed.

When the write-ins are added to the self-code responses, there were a total of 44 responses in 32 households. Of these households, 1 had three foster children, 10 (31.3%) had 2 foster children and 21 (65.6%) had one only. (See Tables 12 & 13.) Just under 30% had foster children only, while the remainder (71.9%) had both foster and own children. The majority (75.0%) were husband-wife families. Female lone parents made up an additional 18.8% and the other 2 cases were females with foster children only.

Just over half (54.6%) of the reported foster cases were male and 45.4% were female. Regarding legal marital status, all but two cases (which were blank) were single and never married. A small proportion (13.6%) were aged 4 or under and 74.9% were aged 5 to 19. The remaining (5) cases were between the ages of 20 and 34. When a person reaches the age of 18 (in Ontario),he or she is no longer a Crown Ward. The Children's Aid Society is allowed to extend care up to the age of 21. Neither the Child Welfare Services or the CAS can go beyond the age of 21. However, a person who is disabled may be in an "Adult Protective Services" programme, for example. Another explanation for the older foster children is that because they entered the home as foster children, the respondent still considers them as such, regardless of their age.

While not checked systematically, it was noted that some foster parents were social workers or counsellors, employed by the Children's Aid Society or provincial social service ministries. Some female foster parents reported such departments as their employer.

## 5.2 Summary

The category appears to have been well understood by respondents. The addition of a self-code would no doubt facilitate the reporting of such children for respondents and improve the measurement of such households in the Census. However, the low incidence relative to other relationships (eg.in-laws) which might have to be dropped in order to accommodate this addition has to be evaluated.

Measurement considerations include that the age definitions vary by province (generally ranging between 16 and 18), and may change when a province amends the age of majority.The foster experience can be transitory and include different foster homes over time. Information from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, for example, says the average stay is six months. It indicates, however, that a foster child may stay for a day, a week, a month or several years.

Statistics on children in care are produced by the provincial social service departments and agencies such as the Children's Aid Society. It should be noted that counts may differ among sources. Data on foster children are available from the Labour Force Survey microdatabase and will be collected in other Statistics Canada surveys such as the 1995 General Social Survey, the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics(SLID).

It would be problematic to ascertain whether the category accurately measured the phenomenon given measurement and definitional considerations, the 'snapshot' or cross-sectional nature of the data and the small incidence.

## 6.0 Réponses écrites (write-in responses)

La question sur le lien avec la Personne 1 au Test du Recensement national de 1993 permettait d'inscrire une réponse en toutes lettres dans la case 13, tout comme en 1991. Cependant, par rapport au dernier Recensement, les catégories de réponses pré-codées ont changé et ont sûrement eu une influence sur la quantité et même la nature des réponses écrites. Ainsi, les catégories gendre/bru, beau-père/ belle-mère et beau-frère/belle-soeur, que l'on pouvait trouver sur le questionnaire de 1991, avaient été retranchées au Test de 1993, afin de pouvoir tester de nouvelles catégories. Ces nouvelles catégories sont «Fils ou fille d'un conjoint précédent ou actuel de la Personne 1», «Fils ou fille de la Personne 1 et de la Personne 2», «Fils ou fille de la Personne 1 uniquement», «Fils ou fille de la Personne 2 uniquement» et «Enfant en foyer nourricier ou en tutelle». Une autre catégorie a été modifiée: il s'agit de la cellule 03, où «Partenaire non marié/e de la Personne 1» a remplacé «Partenaire en union libre de la Personne 1», afin de tenter de recueillir de l'information sur les couples de même sexe.

## 6.1 Analyse des réponses écrites

Au Test de 1993, on a relevé 613 réponses écrites à la question sur le lien, et ce, dans 503 ménages différents. De ces 613 réponses écrites, un peu plus de 400 proviennent de l'échantillon de l'EPA, et les quelque 200 autres ont été observées dans les questionnaires des populations spéciales. Seules les données de l'EPA sont pondérées, et les 400 réponses écrites de cet échantillon correspondent à environ 372 000 réponses au niveau du Canada (pour les ménages privés). Il est intéressant de constater que l'échantillon de l'EPA a donné deux fois plus de réponses écrites que les populations spéciales, alors que son échantillon est 4 fois plus grand.

Il est difficile de faire la comparaison avec 1991, car aucun chiffre n'a été compilé pour cet aspect précis, mais on sait que près de 380 000 questionnaires sont passés par l'étape du dépouillement au bureau régional qui regroupe tant la résolution des réponses multiples que celle des réponses écrites à la question sur le lien avec la Personne 1. On sait également que la majorité des résolution à cette étape concernaient des réponses écrites. Dans le cas de la présente analyse, les nombres pondérés n'étant pas disponibles au niveau de chaque catégorie, il faudra se restreindre à examiner les données brutes. A noter également que l'analyse effectuée ici ne tient pas compte du fait que le Test n'est pas entièrement comparable au Recensement, puisqu'il y a eu des données obtenues par le biais d'enquêteurs dans le Test, tandis qu'au Recensement, la très grande majorité des réponses sont obtenues par les répondants eux-mêmes, par autodénombrement. En conséquence, il est possible que les données dont nous disposons aux fins du Test soient plus «propres» qu'elles n'auraient dû l'être.

La répartition des 613 réponses écrites est présentée au tableau 14. Une brève explication est également donnée ici:

- Réponses correspondant mot à mot, ou presque, à une case pré-codée du questionnaire du Test: 49 (8%). De ce nombre, 19 représentent un époux ou une épouse, en général ailleurs qu'en position 2; les 30 autres représentent donc des catégories disponibles, mais non cochées (ainsi, si la personne en position 4 inscrit «colocataire», c'est qu'elle n'a manifestement pas vu la catégorie offerte)

- Réponses correspondant à une case pré-codée du questionnaire du Test, mais l'inscription est écrite différemment de la catégorie pré-codée comme par exemple «Partenaire en union libre» plutôt que «Partenaire non marié/e», ou «logeuse» plutôt que «chambreuse»: 99 (16%). La majorité de ces réponses (65) pourront probablement être codées automatiquement avec ACTR (par lot - ou «batch-coded»), tandis que les autres devront peut-être être codées manuellement.

- Inscriptions ne correspondant pas à une case pré-codée au Test, alors qu'en 1991, il y avait une telle case: au moins 201 (33%). A ce nombre, il faudra en ajouter une bonne cinquantaine (9%). En effet, à ce regroupement de 201 données, qui inclut les catégories «gendre/bru», «beau-père/belle-mère» et «beau-frère/belle-soeur», d'autres réponses, si elles étaient codées, pourraient s'y retrouver: par exemple, on a relevé plusieurs réponses du genre «Soeur de la Personne 2». Or, après examen des questionnaires de la moitié de ces cas, il est apparu que pour tous les questionnaires examinés, il s'agissait de situations de «belles-familles». Des réponses du genre «Épouse du frère» ont aussi été relevées et elles représentaient elles aussi des situations de «belles-familles».

- Réponses correspondant à un code existant sur la base de données, mais non à une case pré-codée, ni en 1991, ni au Test de 1993: 142 (23%). Il s'agit, par exemple, des catégories «neveu/nièce», «employé/e».

- Réponses exprimées en fonction d'une personne autre que la Personne 1: 102 (17%). A noter qu'un bon nombre de celles-ci (57) seraient codées à «gendre/bru», «beau-père/belle-mère» ou «beau-frère/belle-soeur», tel qu'expliqué précédemment.

- Réponses indiquant une relation gaie ou lesbienne: 3 (0,5%).

- Données non codables ou codage incertain: 17 (3%). Il s'agit de cas du genre «Voir Personne 2» ou «S O» ou «Frère de la Personne»

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Tableau 14 - récapitulatif des réponses écrites

| Situation | Total | Codage par lot | Codage manuel facile | Codage incertain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inscription correspondant mot à mot à une case pré-codée | 49 | 49 | – | – |
| Inscription correspondant à une case pré-codée, mais écrite différemment | 99 | 65 | 30 | 4 |
| Inscription correspondant à une case pré-codée en 1991, mais non au Test | 201 (250) | 160 | 41 | |
| Inscription ne correspondant pas à une case pré-codée, ni en 1991, ni au Test | 142 | 110 | 25 | 7 |
| Expression d'un lien en fonction d'une personne autre que la Personne 1 | 102 | (50) | (45) | 7 |
| Inscription d'une relation gaie ou lesbienne | 3 | 2 | 1 | – |
| Inscription incomplète ou ambiguë | 17 | – | – | 17 |
| Total | 613 (662) | (436) | (142) | 35 |

Nota: les nombres entre parenthèses sont des estimations moins précises

## 6.2 Effet sur le codage automatisé

L'analyse des réponses écrites servira évidemment au projet de codage automatisé. On peut donc tenter d'estimer l'effet des changements de catégories de réponse sur la quantité d'enregistrements qui devront passer par l'étape du codage automatisé; c'est-à-dire combien d'enregistrements de plus devront être codés du fait du retrait des cases «gendre/bru», «beau-père/belle-mère» et «beau-frère/belle-soeur» et combien de moins résulteront de l'ajout des cases visant à identifier les familles reconstituées et les enfants dans les foyers nourriciers. De même le remplacement de la catégorie «Partenaire en union libre» par «Partenaire non marié/e» a semblé accroître le nombre de réponses écrites. Malheureusement, s'il est possible de quantifier l'effet du retrait de certaines catégories, il est cependant beaucoup plus difficile d'estimer le phénomène inverse, les réponses obtenues au dernier Recensement pour ces catégories n'étant pas disponibles.

On peut sans peine affirmer que le retrait de l'identification de la catégorie de la belle-famille est responsable pour un bon tiers des réponses écrites observées, et même peut-être un autre 10% à 15%. La catégorie «Partenaire non marié/e» pourrait être également responsable d'un autre 5%. On aurait donc environ la moitié des réponses écrites observées qui seraient dues aux changements susmentionnés. A l'inverse, on a relevé une quarantaine de cas d'enregistrements où la cellule «Enfants en foyer nourricier» a été cochée. Quant aux enfants dans les familles reconstituées, aucun compte précis n'est disponible pour le recensement de 1991. Le résultat net ne peut donc être estimé avec une grande précision, mais l'accroissement du nombre de réponses écrites par rapport à 1991 pourrait atteindre de 50% à 100%. Or, les prévisions déjà existantes quant au nombre de réponses qui devront être résolues à l'étape du codage automatisé estiment ce phénomène à 800 000 (incluant les réponses dans les ménages collectifs). Cette estimation, tout en étant raisonnable, semble un peu trop forte, mais elle suppose que les catégories impliquant les «belles-familles» ne seront pas sur le questionnaire de 1996; il est bien évident que si les catégories sur les familles reconstituées et les enfants en foyer nourricier ne sont pas gardées en 1996 et si on laisse les mêmes catégories qu'en 1991, l'estimation du nombre d'enregistrements à coder sera beaucoup moindre et devrait être voisin du nombre observé en 1991 à l'étape du dépouillement au bureau régional.

Un autre aspect important du codage automatisé est la proportion du codage qui pourrait se faire par lot («batch coding») par rapport à celle qui serait effectuée manuellement, c'est-à-dire par un codeur, spécialisé ou non. L'examen des données du Test révèle qu'entre 60% et 80% des réponses écrites pourraient être codées par lot, dépendant du nombre de versions acceptables pour un même ter-

me. Par exemple, en anglais, on retrouve parfois le terme «neice» au lieu de «niece»; les traits d'union dans les expressions comme «brother-in-law» ne sont pas toujours présents non plus, tout comme on retrouve souvent de nombreuses orthographes pour un même mot et il est impossible de penser à toutes les versions imaginables. Ces cas devraient alors être codés manuellement, mais présenteraient peu de difficultés. On peut alors estimer de 15% à 35% le codage manuel, dont la grande majorité devrait être facile, alors que seulement 5% des cas, approximativement, risquent d'être plus difficiles à coder. La question de la «propreté» des données doit être soulevée ici, les réponses données par la méthode d'autodénombrement pourraient être beaucoup moins claires et résulter en un plus grand nombre de réponses écrites et même de réponses qui devront être codées manuellement ou qui seraient tout simplement incodables.

La mise à jour de la liste de référence pour le codage automatisé ne présente pas de problème sérieux, seules les inscriptions relatives aux partenaires non mariés, aux fils ou filles des Personnes 1 et/ou 2 et aux enfants d'un conjoint issus d'une union précédente devraient être ajoutées, avec quelques variantes, puisque les autres y figurent déjà.


## 6.3 Résumé

L'analyse des réponses écrites au présent test indique que l'on peut estimer à entre 50% et 100% l'augmentation des réponses écrites en 1993 par rapport à 1991. Cette augmentation résulte du retrait de 3 catégories pré-codées en 1991, soit: (1) gendre/bru, (2) beau-père/belle-mère, et (3) beau-frère/belle-soeur de la Personne 1. Le nombre estimé de réponses écrites en 1991 est de 200 000 à 300 000 et il pourrait donc doubler en 1996, si on gardait les mêmes catégories de réponses qu'au TRN; les réponses écrites seront traitées par ACTR en 1996.

Selon les observations du test, on peut estimer que de 60% à 80% des réponses écrites seraient codables par lot, de 15% à 35% seraient facilement codables manuellement et seulement 5% environ seraient plus difficiles à coder ou même non codables.

## 7.0  RECOMMENDATION

**Response Rates:**

- If the costs of capturing the pre-"X" circle for Person 1 and the subsequent adjustment of this person indicator for "missed/refused" households during Head Office Processing is tolerable, it is recommended that a pre-"X" circle for Person 1 be put back on the questionnaire to lessen the confusion of respondents.

- No recommendation with respect to the "Rule of 6" follow-up as its true effect on Relationship to Person 1 response rate is not totally clear.

**Unmarried Partner:**

*The response category "Common-law partner of Person 1" rather than "Unmarried partner ..." should be used on the 1996 Census questionnaire.*

This recommendation is partly based on the increased public awareness/acceptance of the term "common-law" because of its usage in legislation and financial applications (eg., RRSP's).

There is also evidence from the NCT that some respondents appeared to miss the correlation between the "Unmarried partner of Person 1" response category and the intention of Question 6. This relationship confirmation is essential for the identification, validation and processing of common-law partners of Person 1.

*The identification of same-sex living arrangements should be handled as it was in 1991, ie. the capture (via ACTR in 1996) and retention of written responses indicating such relationships.*

The limited number of valid same-sex relationships identified by the method of reporting used in this test, coupled with an equally small number of respondents choosing to write in their situation, suggests the recommendation to remove "Unmarried partner ..." for 1996. It is unfortunate that "same-sex partner of Person 1" as a separate category was not tested here and there is no way of knowing if respondents would respond better to this terminology.

While it cannot be determined how successful the "Unmarried partner of Person 1" self-code might be in identifying same-sex couples during Census production, with its associated public communications' efforts, etc., there is still a lack of confidence

in the validity of a derived result, primarily due to the unexplainable misreporting of the pivotal sex characteristic. The time and expense it would require to verify the reporting of even a representative sample of this very controversial, yet politically significant sub-population would appear to be prohibitive, considering the early release mandate associated with the 1996 Census.

It is, therefore, recommended that a greater effort be put into advertising the written response as the method of reporting same-sex unions for 1996. This should be done through public communications efforts, as well as guidelines to the respondent (including, notes on the questionnaire, reference in the "Guide" and instructions available through T.A.S). These write-in responses can be routed by ACTR to Subject-matter personnel for "expert" coding of each individual case, as was done in the Regional Office Coding activity in 1991.


**Blended Families:**


It is recommended that the response category "Son or daughter of Person 1" be used on the 1996 Census questionnaire rather than the new categories tested on the 1993 NCT.

Analysis of the test results to date suggests that generally children in legitimate blended families were reported correctly. (Nevertheless, it should be noted that some apparent misreporting of children occurred in these types of households.) However, the introduction of the new categories appears to have adversely affected the response patterns of husband-wife families with biological children and of lone-parent families. Reporting error was most pronounced for families where it appeared the children were actually the children of both parents and were misreported as the children of Person 1 only. Misreporting of this nature would result in an inflated count of blended families and a deflated count of non-blended families. These errors could not be detected in the normal processing environment without manual review.

It also appears that reporting errors for children in lone-parent families would increase due to the introduction of the new self-code categories. While generally it is expected these types of errors could be determined, the correction of the anomalies could result in increased processing costs.

Research will continue to evaluate the feasibility of the identification of blended families in the 2001 Census.

The following is the recommendation for "Stepson or stepdaughter of Person 1" self-coded category.

Étant donné le peu de cas plausibles observés, et surtout puisque le nombre de cas erronés est supérieur aux cas valides, il ne semble pas nécessaire de conserver cette catégorie de réponse pour le Recensement de 1996. Toutefois, si cette catégorie est conservée, il faudrait changer la version française, soit en ajoutant des éclaircissements dans les section des exemples de la question et/ou dans le guide. Une autre option aurait pu être de changer la formulation de la catégorie, mais puisque les versions que l'on pourrait proposer n'ont pas été testées, cette option est difficilement défendable (à titre d'exemple, on pourrait remplacer la catégorie actuelle par une des deux formulations suivantes: «Fils ou fille d'un conjoint précédent ou actuel de la Personne 1, mais non de la Personne 1 elle-même», ou «Fils ou fille d'une union précédente d'un conjoint précédent ou actuel de la Personne 1»).

### Foster or Guardianship Child:

It is recommended that "foster or guardianship child" not be added as a specific self-code to the 1996 Census relationship question. Counts will, nonetheless, be possible through the automated coding of write-ins and their retention as a discrete relationship on the database.

### Write-in Responses:

A la lumière des observations précédentes, la mise en place de l'opération du codage automatisé pour la question 2 est recommandée, étant donnée la forte proportion des réponses écrites qui devraient être facilement codables.

CHART 1

# RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON 1

| | **PERSON 1** | **PERSON 2** | **PERSON 3** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1. NAME** <br><br> Make sure you copy the names in the same order as your list in **Step 2**. <br><br> *If you need help, please use the Guide or call us toll free at 1-800-565-5595.* | Family name <br><br> Given name　　Initial <br><br> ▼ | Family name <br><br> Given name　　Initial <br><br> ▼ | Family name <br><br> Given name　　Initial <br><br> ▼ |

**2. RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON 1**

For **each** person usually living here, describe his/her relationship to Person 1.

*Mark one circle only.*

*If you mark the circle "Other", use the box provided to indicate this person's relationship to Person 1.*

*Examples of "Other" relationships to Person 1:*

- cousin
- grandfather or grandmother
- daughter-in-law or son-in-law
- son's common-law partner (common-law daughter-in-law)
- niece or nephew
- lodger's husband, wife or common-law partner
- lodger's son or daughter
- room-mate's daughter or son
- employee

**PERSON 1**

01 ⊗ PERSON 1

**PERSON 2**

- 02 ◯ Husband or wife of Person 1
- 03 ◯ Unmarried partner of Person 1
- 04 ◯ Son or daughter of Person 1
- 05 ✓◯ Stepson or stepdaughter of Person 1
- 07 ◯ Grandchild of Person 1
- 08 ◯ Father or mother of Person 1
- 09 ◯ Brother or sister of Person 1
- 10 ◯ Foster or guardianship child
- 11 ◯ Lodger or boarder
- 12 ◯ Room-mate
- 13 ◯ Other — *Specify*

**PERSON 3**

- 04 ✓◯ Son or daughter of both Person 1 and Person 2
- 05 ✓◯ Son or daughter of Person 1 only
- 06 ✓◯ Son or daughter of Person 2 only
- 07 ◯ Grandchild of Person 1
- 08 ◯ Father or mother of Person 1
- 09 ◯ Brother or sister of Person 1
- 10 ◯ Foster or guardianship child
- 11 ◯ Lodger or boarder
- 12 ◯ Room-mate
- 13 ◯ Other — *Specify*

lended family' Case types examined

each of the case types below, according to the self-code, Person
vas either the husband, wife or common-law partner of Person 1
l the children (or remaining self-codes) were reported as follows
Position 3(+).


Each as "Son or daughter of Person 1 only".
(Self-code 05 in Position 3(+)).

Each as "Son or daughter of Person 2 only".
(Self-code 06 in Position 3(+)).

A combination of "Son or daughter of both Person 1 and Person 2"
(Self-code 04 in Position 3(+)) and "Son or daughter of Person 1
only" (Self-code 05 in Position 3(+)).

A combination of "Son or daughter of Person 1 and Person 2"
(Self-code 04 in Position 3(+)) and "Son or daughter of Person 2
only" (Self-code 06 in Position 3(+)).

A combination of "Son or daughter of Person 1 only"
(Self-code 05 in Position 3(+)) and "Son or daughter of Person 2
only" (Self-code 06 in Position 3(+)).

A combination of "Son or daughter of both Person 1 and Person 2"
(Self-code 04 in Position 3(+)), "Son or daughter of Person 1
only" (Self-code 05 in Position 3(+)) and "Son or daughter of
Person 2 only" (Self-code 06 in Position 3(+)).

Table 6

**Distribution of 'Blended family' case types and percentage examined**

| Case type | Total cases (1) | Number examined (To date) | % of total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 241 | 60 | 24.9 |
| 2 | 158 | 16 | 10.1 |
| 3 | 77 | 16 | 20.8 |
| 4 | 89 | 18 | 20.2 |
| 5 | 24 | 6 | 25 |
| 6 | 4 | 4 | 100 |

(1) Based on specified self-codes as identified by Methodology
   on final file. Unweighted.

**Distribution and source of error (1) for 'blended families'**

| Case Type | Total cases examined | Total Valid (2) | % | Total invalid (3) | % | Respondent error | % of invalid | Interviewer error | % of invalid | Keying error | % of invalid |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 60 | 21 | 35.0 | 39 | 65.0 | 29 | 74.4 | 8 | 20.5 | 0 | |
| 2 | 16 | 13 | 81.3 | 3 | 18.7 | 2 | 66.7 | 1 | 33.3 | 0 | |
| 3 | 16 | 10 | 62.5 | 6 | 37.5 | 1 | 16.7 | 3 | 50.0 | 2 | 33.3 |
| 4 | 18 | 18 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 85.7 | 1 | 14.3 | 0 | | 1 | 100.0 | 0 | |
| 6 | 3 | 3 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | |

N/A: Not applicable

1) During the questionnaire review, it was assessed whether the questionnaire was respondent or interviewer completed and the apparent source of error.

2) 'Valid' indicates 'blended family' situations which were identified on the final file, questionnaire review confirmed that they appeared to be legitimate blended families and the questionnaire had been correctly completed.

3) 'Invalid' indicates 'blended family' situations which were identified on the final file and questionnaire review indicated that they were not legitimate blended families.

<u>Table 8</u>

**'Lone-parent family' Case types examined**

1) Person 1 and "Son or daughter of Person 1".
   (Self-code 04 in Position 2).

2) Person 1, and a combination of "Son or daughter of Person 1".
   (Self-code 04 in Position 2) and "Son or daughter of Person 1 only"
   (Self-code 05 in Position 3(+)).

3) Person 1, and a combination of "Son or daughter of Person 1"
   (Self-code 04 in Position 2) and "Son or daughter of Person 2 only".
   (Self-code 06 in Position 3(+)).

4) Person 1 and a combination of self-codes 04, 05 and 06
   were identified in the household.

5) Person 1, Person 2 is "Son or daughter of Person 1"
   (Self-code 04 in Position 2) and Person 3 (+) is "Son or daughter of
   both Person 1 and Person 2". (Self-code 04 in Position 3(+)).

Note: It was anticipated that case types 1 and 2 would be correct and case types 3, 4 and 5 incorrect.

tribution of 'lone-parent family' Case types and percentage examined

| ase type | Total cases (1) | Number examined (To date) | % of total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 940 | 12 | 1.3 |
| 2 | 594 | 6 | 1.0 |
| 3 | 25 | 5 | 20.0 |
| 4 | 89 | 18 | 20.2 |
| 5 | 3 | 3 | 100 |

Based on specified self-codes as identified by Methodology on final file.
Unweighted.

Table 10

Distribution and source of error for 'Lone-parent families'

| Case Type | Total cases examined | Total correct (1) | % | Total incorrect (2) | % | Respondent error | % | Interviewer error | % | Keying error | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 12 | 12 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | |
| 2 | 6 | 6 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | |
| 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100.0 | 4 | 80.0 | 1 | 20.0 | 0 | |
| 4 | 18 | 1(*) | 5.6 | 17 | 94.4 | 5 | 29.4 | 6 | 35.3 | 6 | 35.3 |
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 100.0 | 3 | 100.0 | 0 | | 0 | |

N/A: Not applicable

1) 'Correct' indicates 'Lone-parent family' situations identified on the final file, questionnaire review confirmed that they appeared
    to be legitimate lone-parent families and the questionnaire had been correctly completed. Case type #1 includes 2 anomalous non-lone parent cases.

2) 'Incorrect' indicates expected lone-parent family error situations which were identified on the final file and review confirmed that the
    questionnnaire contained an error. N.B: For the respondent and interviewer error cases, each were legitimate lone-parent families where one
    or more errors had been made in the reporting of the children . For the keying error cases, each were husband-wife families with children.

* Correct due to presence of 2nd questionnaire.

# Table 11

### oster or guardianship child

| | Count | % of total |
|---|---|---|
| al self-code responses* on final file | 55 | 100 |
| id foster children | 40 | 72.7 |
| foster children | 15 | 27.3 |
| sreported relationship | | |
|   Respondent error | 0 | |
|   Interviewer error | 0 | |
|   Data capture error | 15 | 100 |

ll single responses

## Table 12

### Selected characteristics for foster children

|  | Count | % of total |
|---|---|---|
| Total foster child cases* | 44 | 100 |
| Sex   Male | 24 | 54.6 |
| Female | 20 | 45.4 |
| Marital status |  |  |
| Never married | 42 | 95.4 |
| Blank | 2 | 4.6 |
| Common-law status |  |  |
| Yes | 0 | 0 |
| No | 44 | 100 |
| Age groupings |  |  |
| 0-4 | 6 | 13.6 |
| 5-9 | 6 | 13.6 |
| 10-14 | 10 | 22.7 |
| 15-19 | 17 | 38.6 |
| 20-24 | 2 | 4.6 |
| 25-29 | 2 | 4.6 |
| 30-34 | 1 | 2.3 |

* Includes 4 valid write-in responses.

# Table 13

## Selected characteristics for households with foster children

|  | Count | % of total |
|---|---|---|
| Total households with foster children | 32 | 100 |
| **Number of foster children** | | |
| 1 | 21 | 65.6 |
| 2 | 10 | 31.3 |
| 3 | 1 | 3.1 |
| **Presence of foster and own children** | | |
| Foster children only | 9 | 28.1 |
| Foster and own children | 23 | 71.9 |
| **Family structure** | | |
| Husband-wife families | 24 | 75.0 |
| Female lone parents | 6 | 18.8 |
| Female only with foster children | 2 | 6.2 |

OOS